

Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace original Figures 3 and 5-8 with amended Figures 3 and 5-8 of the attached replacement sheets.

Figures 3 and 5-8 have been amended to overcome the drawing objections and correct minor informalities. The attached annotated sheets clearly indicate the amendments being submitted with respect to the original figures.

Attachments: 5 Replacement Sheets (Figures 3 and 5-8)

5 Annotated Sheets (Figures 3 and 5-8)

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for reviewing and considering the present application. Applicants also express gratitude to the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. In addition, Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the material cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of September 3, 2004. Applicants further thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 10 and 11 are allowable. The Office Action dated September 19, 2006, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 are hereby amended. Claims 1-11 are currently pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action includes objections to the drawings for minor informalities. Applicants have amended Figures 3 and 5-8 to overcome the objections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawing objections.

The Office also objected to the specification. In particular, the Office asserts that the length of the abstract has been exceeded. The Office also asserts that the specification contains minor informalities. In response, Applicants have amended the abstract and the specification to overcome the objections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the specifications.

In addition, the Office Action includes objections to claims 2-4 for minor informalities. With respect to claim 2, Applicants have amended the original recitation, "capable of communicating," to overcome the claim objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 2.

With respect to claim 3, the Office asserts that the recitation, "the master," lacks antecedent basis. The Office further asserts that "for performing a function" is not a positive

limitation. Applicants have amended claim 3 to overcome the Office's objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 3.

With respect to claim 4, the Office asserts that the recitation, "the slave," lacks antecedent basis. The Office further asserts that "for performing a function" is not a positive limitation. Applicants have amended claim 4 to overcome the Office's objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 4.

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Regarding claim 3, the Office asserts that Applicant "omits describing a master that produces 'a factor code from packet data of a received message' in such a way as to convey possession of the claimed invention." See page 5 of the Office Action.

Applicants submit that support for these claim recitations can be found, for example, at the paragraph beginning on line 21 of page 5. Applicants submit that additional support can be found at the paragraph beginning on line 15 of page 7. Additionally, Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning on line 19 of page 7 to enhance the clarity thereof without adding any new matter. As these claimed features are clearly supported by the specification, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection.

Regarding claim 4, the Office asserts that Applicant "omits describing the slave's physical layer 6a checking the address of a packet produced by the slave's data connecting layer 5a in such a way as to convey possession of the claimed invention." See page 6 of the Office Action.

Applicants submit that support for these claim recitations can be found, for example, at the paragraph beginning on line 10 of page 6. Specifically, this citation indicates that "the physical layer 6a performs functions of receiving the packet demanded from the data connecting

layer 5a, *checking its address...*” In the specification, it is clear that “*checking its address*” refers to the address of the packet from the data connecting layer. Moreover, Figure 3 clearly illustrates the relationship between the data connecting layer and the physical layer with regards to address checking. As these claimed features are clearly supported by the original specification, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection.

Claims 1 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,101,191, issued to *MacFadyen et al.* (hereinafter “*MacFadyen*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a system comprising, inter alia, “a first home appliance having a master function, the master function being provided only to the first home appliance; at least one second home appliance having a slave function, wherein the master function is configured to the slave function; and a communication line path for communication only between the first home appliance and at least one of the second home appliances.”

MacFadyen fails to disclose at least the above-mentioned features. In contrast, *MacFayden* discloses that local area networks “provided in the present invention permit data communication between any of the appliances and controllers that are connected and capable of using the networks.” See *MacFayden* at column 3, lines 23-27, as well as column 8, lines 12-15. Additionally, *MacFayden* discloses that “appliances using the appliance coordination data network can command each other to operate at appropriate times and conditions” (emphasis added). See *MacFayden* at column 3, lines 38-40. That is, *MacFayden* teaches away from a master function and a slave function, particularly of the master function being configured to control the slave function, wherein the master function is provided only to the first home appliance,” as required by the claim language. Further, *MacFayden* does not disclose or suggest

a “communication line path for communication only between the first home appliance and at least one of the second home appliances,” (emphasis added), as recited.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claims 6-7, which depends from claim 1, are also patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,922,050, issued to *Madany*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a system comprising, inter alia, “a first home appliance having a master function, the master function being provided only to the first home appliance; at least one second home appliance having a slave function, wherein the master function is configured to control the slave function; and a communication line path for communication only between the first home appliance and at least one of the second home appliances.”

Madany fails to disclose at least these claimed features. In contrast, *Madany* discloses a device that “broadcasts” its existence and identity across network 14. See *Madany* at 56 of Figure 4. By providing devices that “broadcast” information across a network, *Madany* teaches away from a master and slave network in which, inter alia, there is a communication line path for communication only between the first home appliance and at least one of the second home appliances.

Additionally, if multiple computers are coupled to the network, *Madany* contemplates a system in which multiple computers will receive the broadcasted information from a device. See *Madany* at column 5, lines 5-11. That is, *Madany* teaches away from “the master function being provided only to the first home appliance; at least one second home appliance having a slave function, wherein the master function is configured to control the slave function,” (emphasis added) as required by the claim language.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claim 2, which depends from claim 1, is also patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,826,267, issued to *Daum et al.* (hereinafter “*Daum*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a system comprising, inter alia, “a first home appliance having a master function, the master function being provided only to the first home appliance; at least one second home appliance having a slave function, wherein the master function is configured to control the slave function; and a communication line path for communication only between the first home appliance and at least one of the second home appliances.”

Daum fails to disclose at least these claimed features. In contrast, *Daum* discloses a command structure that includes a context subfield, which includes “commands directed by other appliances or products” such as “a clothes dryer signaling a TV that it has finished its cycle so that the appropriate message can be displayed.” See column 5, lines 13-18. *Daum* does not disclose a master function being provided only to the first home appliance such that the master function is configured to control the slave function.”

Additionally, Applicants submit that *Daum* discloses an appliance network 100 in which an ACC receives a command from another device such that the command will be translated into an action for the appliance to perform. See *Daum* at column 6, lines 15-17. That is, *Daum* discloses a system in which devices can command each other, but does not disclose a master and slave configuration, as recited in the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claims 2-5, which depends from claim 1, are also patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *MacFadyen* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,008,879, issued to *Fischer et al.* (hereinafter *Fischer*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 3-5 and request reconsideration. Claims 3-5, which depend from independent claim 1, are allowable because *Fischer* fails to cure the deficiency of *MacFadyen* and fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-5, as it depends from independent claim 1, is allowable over *MacFadyen* and *Fischer*, taken alone or in combination.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-5, which depend from claim 1, are patentable over the applied reference and request that the rejection be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fischer* in view of *MacFadyen*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 8 recites a method comprising, inter alia, “transmitting the constituted second packet to only the first home appliance, wherein the second home appliance is not configured to transmit commands to the first appliance; and having the first home appliance perform processes of checking whether the second packet is received, and transmitting the next packet or re-transmitting the first packet according to a result obtained from said checking.”

Applicants submit that *Fischer* fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, “transmitting the constituted second packet to only the first home appliance,” as recited. In contrast, *Fischer* discloses a LAN based system, in which an “essential characteristic of a bus-type LAN is that

each transmission by any node is transmitted directly for receipt by all of the other nodes" (emphasis added). See *Fischer* at column 4, lines 67 to column 5, line 1.

Additionally, Applicants submit that *MacFadyen* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Fischer*. In contrast, *MacFayden* discloses that local area networks "provided in the present invention permit data communication between any of the appliances and controllers that are connected and capable of using the networks." See *MacFayden* at column 3, lines 23-27, as well as column 8, lines 12-15. Additionally, *MacFayden* discloses that "appliances using the appliance coordination data network can command each other to operate at appropriate times and conditions" (emphasis added). See *MacFayden* at column 3, lines 38-40. That is, *MacFayden* teaches away from providing a second home appliance that is not configured to transmit commands to the first appliance, as required by the claim language.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is patentable and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claim 9, which depends from claim 8, is also patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicants' representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By


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McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

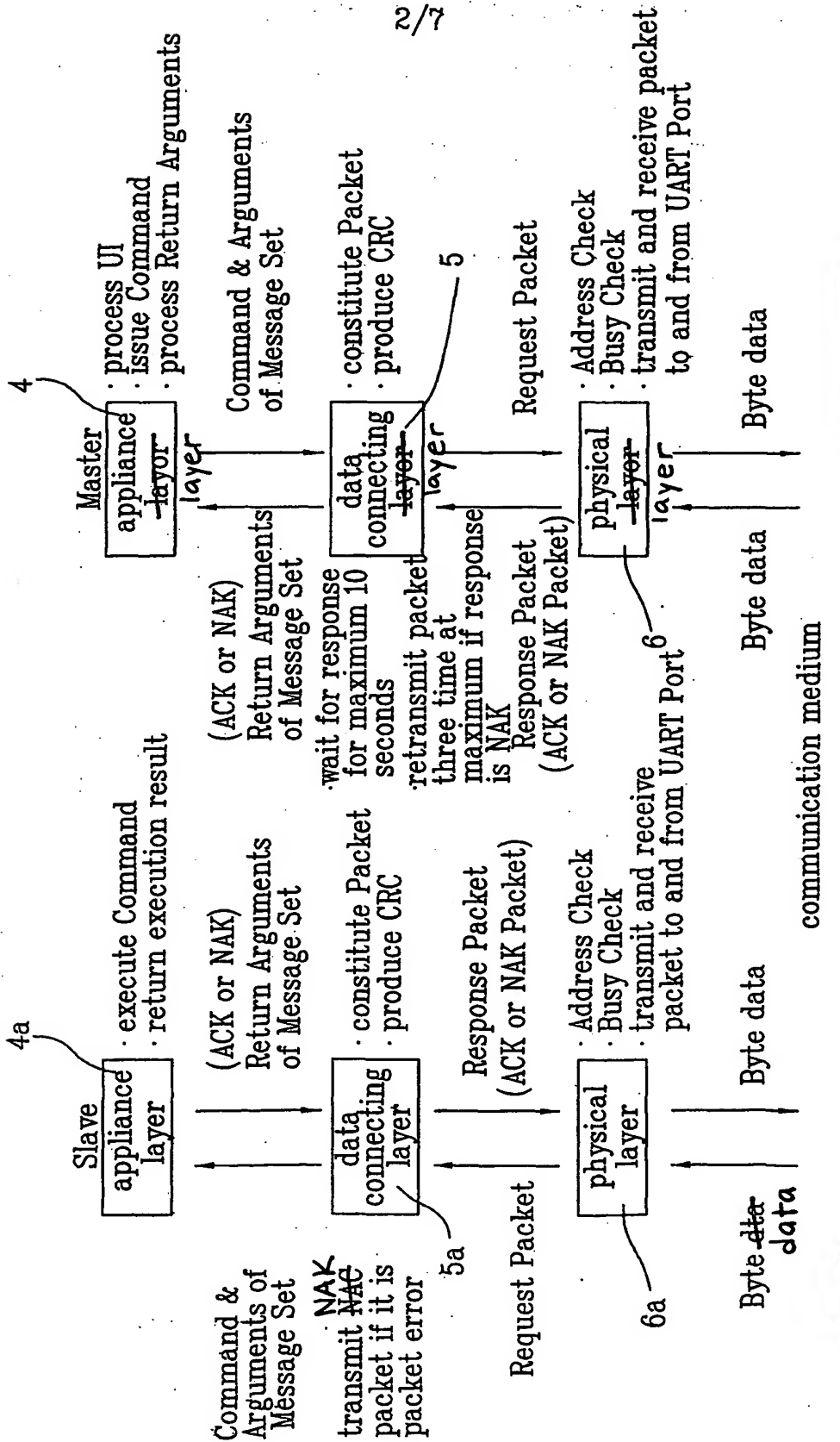
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FIG. 3



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FIG. 5

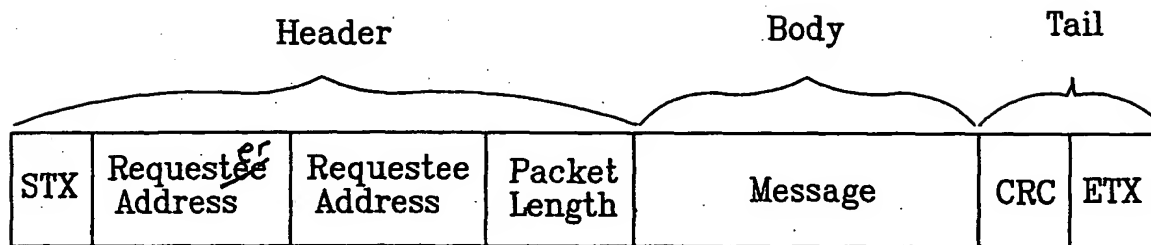
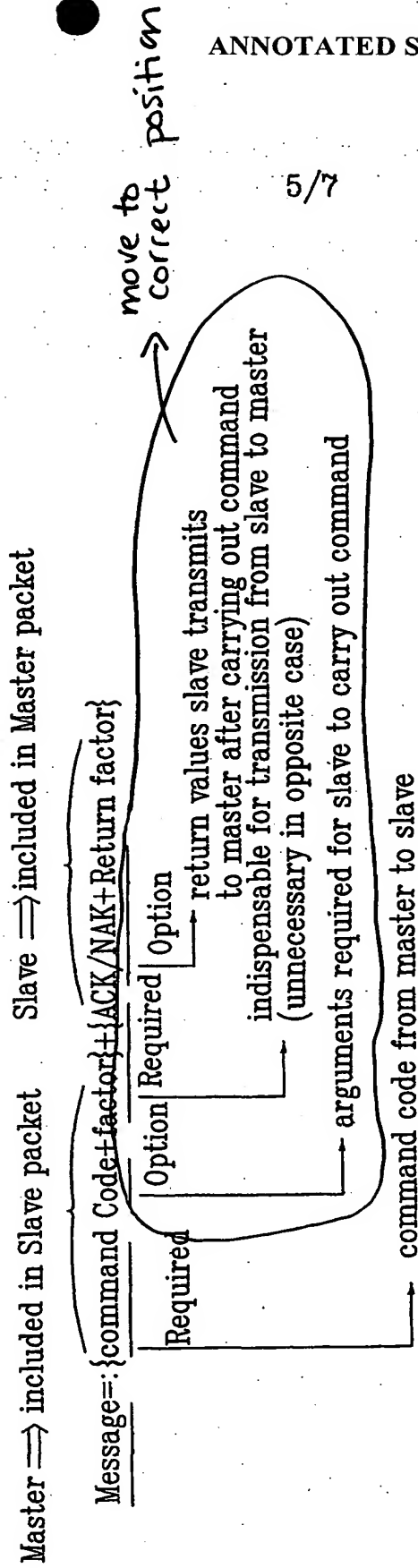


FIG. 6



Message
-Message-

Request Packet (Master \rightarrow Slave)

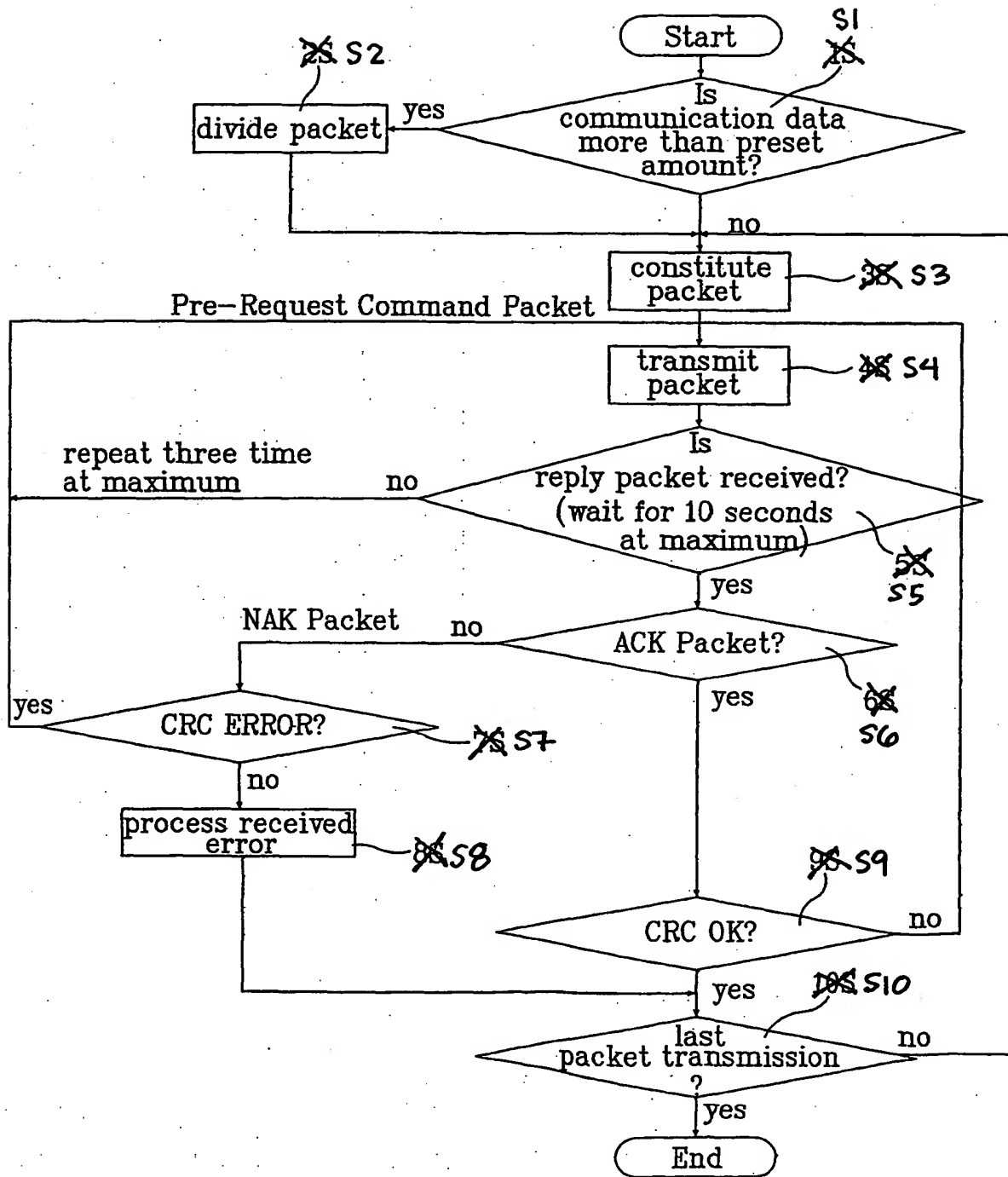
STX	Request Address	Request Address	Packet Length	Command code	CRC	ETX
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Response Packet (Slave \rightarrow Master)

STX	Request Address	Request Address	Packet Length	Command code copy	ACK/NAK Error Code	CRC	ETX
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FIG. 7



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FIG.8

